

HB 264 -- EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

SPONSOR: Brattin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Employment Security by a vote of 8 to 4.

This bill changes the laws regarding the prohibition for any public or private employer or business entity to knowingly hire or continue to employ unauthorized aliens. Currently, public employers and certain private employers doing business with a public entity are required to participate in a federal work authorization program. This bill requires all public and private employers and business entities to enroll and actively participate in a federal work authorization program.

The bill specifies certain penalties for the first, second, and third violation of the provisions of this bill.

This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2018 and is similar to HB 1741 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help ensure that all new hires are authorized to work and provides a protection to the employer for using the E-verify system. This will also help prevent the use of a stolen identity.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Brattin.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the mandatory feature of the bill is an additional burden on businesses and that the use of the I-9 process provides the same benefit. In addition, the E-verify program disproportionately affects women because of name changes, and those with different cultural naming practices.

Testifying against the bill were Marie-Aimee Abizera, Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Growers Association; Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants; Associated Industries of Missouri; and American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri.